



College Graduate Outlook 2005

In the split second between throwing your mortarboard in the air and it pegging someone three rows in front of you, a cold, hard, realization slaps you in the face: you need a job! Of course, you have planned for this moment for the past year and have already lined up a high-paying job with full-benefits in your field. No? Ok, don't panic, you can still recover.

Job Outlook

Luckily, 2005 promises to be a good year for graduates entering the real world – no, not MTV’s Real World, but the working world. Both national and state economies are showing renewed vigor and the forecasts for the year show solid job growth. In line with these economic indicators, roughly two-thirds of employers surveyed by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) said that this year’s job market was “good” or “very good.”

So, is it going to be easy to get a job? Well, since the demand for graduates is tied up with which parts of the economy are doing well, your experience is going to vary. Not surprisingly, the NACE survey shows that engineering graduates should do well. Likewise, thanks to the improved economic situation, business and finance-related degrees are in high demand in both the public and private sectors. Of course, depending on your willingness to relocate, your mileage may vary, even with a degree that is in demand nationwide.

Closer to home, the Department of Workforce Services’ recently released Job Vacancy Survey reveals that there is considerable local demand for college graduates. In metro-Utah – which, because of its size, approximates statewide demand – there are high vacancy rates for financial analysts, computer software engineers, and sales engineers (before you ask, these are people who sell business products and services that require specialized knowledge, hence “engineer.”) Graduates with degrees in these areas should find they are welcomed with open arms here at home.

But I have a degree in Political Science!

Relax. There is no such thing as a useless major. Universities have been surreptitiously forcing students to acquire soft skills, which are highly prized by employers, for centuries. So, while having specialized skills may make it easier to land a specific position, playing to those general skills that you picked up at school – like knowing how to work in a team, flexibility, computer skills, and integrity (no cheating!) – will greatly improve your chances of landing the job you want. So despair not, social science majors! If you can communicate without talking like, y’know, you just stepped off the set of, like, Clueless, you will already meet the number one skill requested by employers.

Job Market, Ahoy!

All right, before you throw yourself into the sea of job seekers, take a moment to define what you want from a job and from the company you will work for. Find out what the companies you are interested in do, and think of how you could fit in. A minute’s search of a company’s website may save you from working for the company from Hell. Plus, employers are impressed when it’s obvious that you’ve done your homework.



Play to your skills and experience when sending in your resume – and don’t forget a cover letter! If you get that interview, make sure to use some common sense. Be punctual and dress appropriately. Coming prepared with extra copies of your resume and other papers always looks good. These may seem like comparatively small things, but by paying attention to them you can easily out-class much of your competition.

A great source for advice and tips is your school’s career counseling center. These places exist purely to help you successfully navigate the job market. Don’t be afraid to have them check over your resumes to make sure you haven’t sold yourself short. They can also give you invaluable and up-to-date advice on interviewing techniques and general job dos and don’ts.

More?

[http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/Occupation Information @ Utah’s Economic Data Viewer](http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/OccupationInformation@Utah'sEconomicDataViewer)


[http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/pubs/vacancy/Department of Work force Service’s Job Vacancy Survey \(JVS\)](http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/pubs/vacancy/DepartmentofWorkforceService'sJobVacancySurvey(JVS))

<http://www.jobweb.com/joboutlook/2005outlook/1a.htm>
Job Outlook 2005 (Student Version)

Things I wish I had done...

confessions of a former college slacker!

Not graduating this summer? Stellar!
There is still hope for you!

- **Make some goals!** If you are going to graduate next year you should already have some clue about what you want to do when you break out, I mean, graduate. What are you passionate about? Don't settle for being a corporate cog. Do some legwork and get the job you want!
- **Intern** in the field you want to get into. Go now. Do it. You'll thank me, I promise. Employers today want to see relevant work experience – even for entry-level positions! If your internship doesn't lead to a full-time position for that particular company, the experience alone will make finding a good job much, much easier.
- **Network!** Career counselors stress this idea over and over and over. Ask your professors about who are some of the companies in the area that hire people like you. Don't be afraid to approach company human resources offices and ask about their hiring plans. Get your name out there. 



TOP



Bachelor's Degrees in Demand

- Accounting
- **Electrical Engineering**
- **Mechanical Engineering**
- **Business Administration**
Management
- **Economics/Finance**
- Computer Science
- **Computer Engineering**
- **Marketing/Marketing**
Management
- **Chemical Engineering**
- **Information Sciences**
and Systems